

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALFRED E. ALQUIST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Alfred E. Alquist, a distinguished former member of the California State Legislature and committed community leader, on the happy occasion of his ninetieth birthday. Senator Alquist served in the California Legislature for thirty-four years, representing his constituents in both the State Assembly and the State Senate.

Senator Alquist embodies the best of public service. Born August 2, 1908 in Memphis, Tennessee, he graduated from Southwestern University in Memphis and began serving our country as a navigation and meteorology instructor for the U.S. Army's Air-Sea Emergency Rescue Service during World War II.

Senator Alquist took an active role in politics as a participant in local and national Democratic Party affairs when he moved to California in 1947. His career in the California Legislature began in 1962 with his election to the State Assembly, where he served two terms. In 1966, he won a seat in the State Senate and was re-elected every time thereafter for the next two decades, a testament to his outstanding ability to represent the diverse needs and interests of his constituents.

Senator Alquist quickly earned a reputation for championing countless efforts to guarantee public safety and welfare for the people of California. The State Legislature passed more than forty earthquake safety bills penned by Senator Alquist during his terms of office, among them the measure which created the Seismic Safety Commission. He worked tirelessly to improve deadly highway conditions in his district and was instrumental in passing legislation to establish the Santa Clara County Transportation District in 1972.

As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, he led the effort to promote conservation and the use of alternative energy sources. While holding the Chairmanship, he co-authored legislation to establish the California State Energy Commission. Not only did the Senator successfully ensure that environmental concerns were considered, but he also fought to improve California's education system, in one instance holding out as the lone vote against a tax rebate because he felt that the funds were sorely needed for schools. He also chaired the Senate Finance Committee, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and, after the Senate split the Senate Financing Committee into two separate committees, the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Alquist's life is instructive to everyone who knows him. Because of his vision, his compassion, and his superior leadership, remarkable contributions have been made to our community and our country throughout his ninety years of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this noble man and wishing him the happiest of birthdays as he celebrates his ninetieth.

LOUISE MARGUEZ IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Louise Marquez, who on her own has transformed the community of Panorama City. Louise is proof that one person can make a difference—a huge difference. She is not only Marketing Director of the Panorama Mall, the commercial hub of the area, but she is also involved in outside activities involving literacy, gangs, youth sports, law enforcement and health care. It's no wonder that Louise is loved and admired by many.

Louise has turned the Panorama Mall into a valuable resource for the community. For several years she has sponsored a free tax assistance program for senior citizens and low-income families. I know the service is a huge success; at tax time people are constantly calling my District Office and asking for the number to the Panorama Mall. Louise also co-sponsors Government Day, an annual event at the Mall that brings together representatives from municipal, county, state and federal governments to provide much-needed information to the community.

Louise works tirelessly to improve the economy of Panorama City. The Mall is the site of numerous job fairs, as well as the Latin Business Expo, which brings together employers with prospective employees. I also know that the Mall's merchants hire many young people from the immediate area. The recent upsurge in the economic fortunes of Panorama City, and a corresponding drop in crime, can in part be credited to the efforts of Louise Marquez.

With all the work she does for the Mall, it amazes me that Louise is a member of nine Boards and sponsor of too many events and fund-raisers to mention here. She doesn't know the meaning of the word "stop." If there is another cause to champion, or group to support, you can be sure that Louise will get involved, especially when the focus is on youth. After all, Louise is herself the mother of three teen-agers.

In recent years, Louise has been battling cancer. Her grit and determination to keep working—and smiling—despite her condition is remarkable. I am inspired by her strength and her courage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Louise Marquez, whose love of community and life-affirming spirit are shining examples for us all.

CONGRATULATING MR. STARR ON AVOIDING A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, after unprecedented requests for testimony from Secret Service agents and lawyers and mothers, we recently had another request for testimony from Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, this

time of the President himself. There were several reasons why the President would have been justified in viewing this request as another unfair abuse of Mr. Starr's powers. It is highly unusual for the target of a grand jury investigation to be subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury. It almost never happens and Department of Justice guidelines strongly discourage such a practice.

Never in the history of presidential investigations, from Teapot Dome to Watergate to Iran-Contra, has a prosecutor gone to such lengths to secure testimony from every conceivable quarter on a matter which appears to take on less and less significance as we learn more and more about it.

In addition, Mr. Starr, who is still under investigation for possible grand jury leaks by Judge Johnson, the D.C. Bar Association and, potentially, the Department of Justice, is seeking President Clinton's testimony even before other investigations have reached their conclusion. Notwithstanding grave doubts about the fairness of Mr. Starr's investigation, the President has agreed to appear for questioning on August 17, 1998. Apparently, Mr. Starr has offered some guarantee that the questioning will not become an unlimited "fishing expedition," as some of Mr. Starr's other activities have been previously described by a federal judge.

It was very important that Mr. Starr offer some assurance that he was engaged in legitimate fact-finding and not a partisan attempt to embarrass this President. After all, this is the same independent counsel who forced First Lady Clinton to personally appear before a D.C. grand jury in the federal courthouse here over two years ago to testify about her work as an attorney while still in private practice in Arkansas. That was also unprecedented and apparently designed to embarrass the Clintons. Since then, of course, nothing appears to have come of the whole Whitewater investigation.

Mr. Starr's recent agreement to limit conditions of the President's testimony was entirely appropriate because to do otherwise would have been a transparent attempt to embarrass the President. If these negotiations had broken down in a legal dispute over the power of this particular independent counsel to call a President before a grand jury under conditions dictated by the independent counsel, then Mr. Starr would have been responsible for creating a wholly unnecessary constitutional crisis.

I commend the Independent Counsel for the flexibility he displayed in reaching an agreement with the President's counsel. We will also be watching closely to ensure that details about the President's deposition are not mysteriously leaked to the news media.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. IRENE NORWOOD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to note the passing of Mrs. Irene Norwood, an ordinary woman from my community who did extraordinary things.

Mrs. Norwood was a wife, grandmother, avid churchgoer, community leader, and member of the South Austin Coalition Community